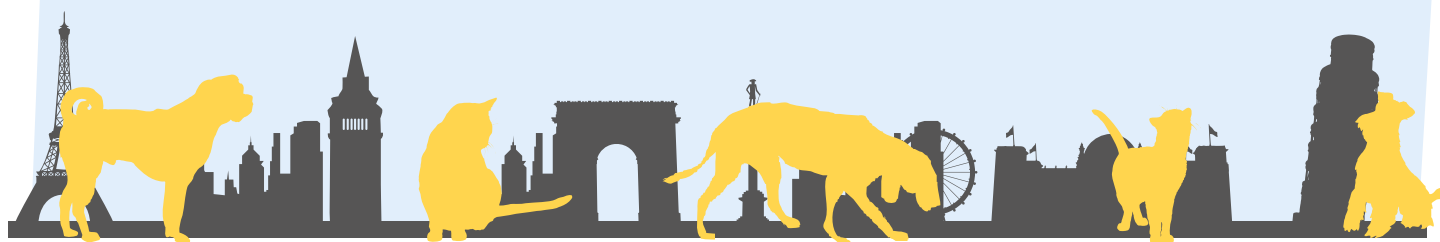
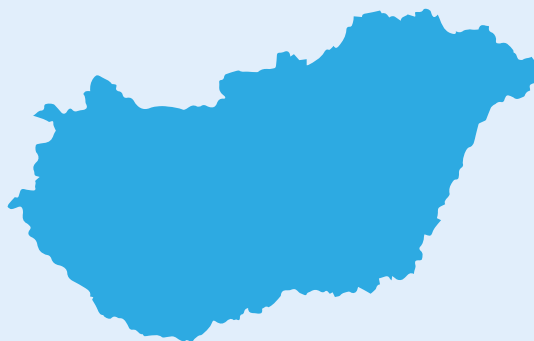


# Hungary



## Identification and Registration

### Dogs

In Hungary, all dogs must be microchipped and registered by a veterinarian in one of the national pet databases within three months of age.



### Cats

Cats do not have to be identified with a microchip. If a cat is identified with a microchip, it is not compulsory for it to be registered in a database.

There is a "pet database", [www.petvetdata.hu](http://www.petvetdata.hu), which is accessible only to veterinarians. This database is operated by the Hungarian Veterinary Chamber. It is a member of Europetnet, thus linked to an EU database. There is also a "national dog database", which is operated by the National Food Chain Safety Office and is accessible to official veterinarians and municipalities. This national dog database synchronizes with the data of petvetdata, so the data of all microchipped dogs must only be registered once.

Owners can register their cats in the petvetdata database through a private veterinarian.

## **Regulation of dog and cat breeders**

In Hungary, there are regulations for the keeping of and trade in companion animals which also apply to breeders.

Dog and cat breeders must respect the provisions of Act XXVIII of 1998 on the protection of animals, last amended in 2014, which applies to all animal keepers, as well as to animals bred and used for economic purposes, and includes the following obligations:

- Regular inspection of the animals, at least daily
- Provide the essential conditions of accommodation adapted to the species and satisfying the physiological needs of the animals, while considering their age, gender and physiological state.
- Provide sufficient space to animals which are tied up, to be able to move and rest.
- Provide shelter from adverse weather and predators, and sufficient space to satisfy their need for movement to animals kept outside.
- Provide proper care to the animal

The breeding of any animal that suffers from a hereditary disease is considered as cruelty to animals and is prohibited. A person holding pets for sale must also prevent the reproduction of animals with abnormal conformations or behaviour that would cause the offspring to suffer or would have detrimental effects on their health.

Cats and dogs cannot be separated from their mother before the age of eight weeks.

Act XXVIII also provides for a general obligation to educate people to behave properly with animals and care for them, as part of the general school curriculum.

There are no specific provisions for the control of dog and cat breeders.

## **Regulation of dog and cat traders**

In Hungary, cats and dogs can be sold in pet shops. They must be older than 8 weeks and be microchipped. The establishment and operation of pet shops requires a license to be issued by the district animal health and food control office of the place where the pet shop is located.

To apply, the pet shop operator must provide:

- a copy of the contract agreed with a veterinarian to monitor the animals' health,
- the rules of operation of the shop, including provisions for feeding and taking care of the animals, their veterinary health supervision, the management of waste, the storage and disposal of carcasses, cleaning, disinfection, compliance with public health, veterinary and animal welfare provisions and provisions for informing customers.

The competent authority processes the application within 21 days, with the possibility to extend this period for another 21 days<sup>9</sup>. If the application, the applicant, the shop and its rules of operation are in line with statutory conditions, the authority issues the licence for the activity and registers the pet shop.

The following requirements apply to pet shops, among others:

- The accommodation must provide a quiet environment, even in the sales area.
- Animals must be kept in a way which allows them to perform their natural behaviour and exercise needs. Dogs can be moved outside of the pet shop to exercise, but their enclosure in the pet shop must allow them to move as much as possible.
- Adequate food must be provided, at intervals suited to the needs of the species
- Pet animals and the place where they are housed shall be checked at least once a day.
- The animal keeper shall ensure that the environmental conditions of the place where the animals are kept satisfy the needs of the animals.
- Animals cannot be kept in permanent light, permanent darkness or permanent noise.
- Pet animals shall be treated with care and may not be caused unnecessary pain, suffering or fear. Their social needs must be taken into account.

<sup>9</sup> according to Act CXL of 2004

Pet shop holders must keep records of animals acquired, sold and which are in stock. Records must also be kept of animals which have died and the reason for death.

The legislation provides for pet shops to be inspected regularly, and at least once per year.

Pet animals cannot be traded through mail orders, in mobile shops or on public places. Advertising is not forbidden on the internet. Pet animals can be sold at animal markets – fulfilling the requirements relevant to pet shops.

Animals incapable of staying alive without parental care cannot be traded as pets. Cats and dogs cannot be sold before the age of eight weeks.

Dogs must be identified with a microchip before being traded in pet shops. If mandatory immunisation of an animal species is stipulated by legislation, animals belonging to that species can only be traded if they have a certificate of immunisation according to their age.

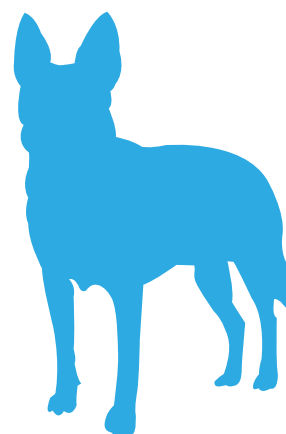
There is no minimum age at which someone can buy a cat or a dog in Hungary.

There are no specific rules for the commercial transport of cats and dogs. The provisions of EU Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport apply. The Act on the protection of animals includes general provisions which apply to any animal transport, including:

- the need to avoid unnecessary suffering or injury when transporting, loading and unloading live animals, and to unload animals without delay once at destination.
- The need to ensure transport conditions which allow the satisfaction of the animals physiological and behavioural needs.
- The vehicle must ensure the protection of animals against adverse weather conditions.
- Experienced staff must accompany the animals and care for them if necessary.

### **Surgical mutilations**

Ear cropping, declawing and devocalisation are prohibited in Hungary. Tail docking can still be performed until the age of 7 days.



### **Links to legislation**

ACT XXVIII of 1998 on the protection of animals (in Hungarian):

[http://njt.hu/cgi\\_bin/njt\\_doc.cgi?docid=34584.235020](http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=34584.235020)

Gov Regulations 41/2010 on the keeping and trading of pet animals:

[http://njt.hu/cgi\\_bin/njt\\_doc.cgi?docid=131539.255331](http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=131539.255331)